

U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 10/720,483  
AMENDMENT

PATENT

REMARKS

This Amendment cancels non-elected claims 17-24 and amends claims 11, 12, 14 and 15. Claims 11-16 are pending.

Applicants affirm their provisional election of Group I, claims 11-16.

This Amendment overcomes the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 11-16. More particularly, claims 11, 12, 14 and 15 have been amended to eliminate the lack of antecedent basis ground for rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection of claims 11-16 are earnestly requested.

This Amendment overcomes the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 11-14 over U.S. Patent No. 6,186,790 to Karmaker et al. The claimed method for the manufacturing of a dental or medical device includes contacting a solid, prefabricated body with a prepreg, and protecting a bottom surface of the prepreg with a protecting tape.

Karmaker et al. fails to disclose protecting a bottom surface of the prepreg with a protecting tape. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of claims 11-14 over Karmaker et al. are earnestly requested.

U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 10/720,483  
AMENDMENT

PATENT

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 15 over Karmaker et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,676,543 to Dragan is respectfully traversed. As discussed above, a feature of the claimed method is contacting a solid, prefabricated body with a prepreg, and protecting a bottom surface of the prepreg with a protecting tape.

The cited combination of references fails to raise a prima facie case of obviousness against the claimed method because it fails to disclose or suggest the protecting tape feature of the claimed method. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claim 15 are earnestly requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 16 over Karmaker et al. is respectfully traversed. As discussed above, a feature of the claimed method is contacting a solid, prefabricated body with a prepreg, and protecting a bottom surface of the prepreg with a protecting tape.

Karmaker et al. fails to raise a prima facie case of obviousness against the claimed method because it fails to disclose or suggest the protecting tape feature of the claimed method. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claim 16 are earnestly requested.

U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 10/720,483  
AMENDMENT

**PATENT**

U.S. Patent No. 5,698,055 to Benkoczy discloses the transitory use of release tape during the manufacture of a reinforced tubular laminate. Benkoczy's tape is used to hold a braided sleeve in place, and is wrapped under tension so as to apply external pressure upon the underlying prepreg material (Col. 3, lines 25-30). The release tape is removed once the prepreg is cured (Col. 2, lines 12-16; Figs. 7-9; and claim 1). One of ordinary skill in the art has no motivation or suggestion to change Benkoczy's release tape to a protective tape because the functions of Benkoczy's tape are so different from a protective tape.

It is believed this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections of claims 11-16, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed to those claims, is respectfully requested. The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned should she believe any further action is required for allowance.

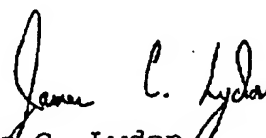
It is not believed any fee is required for entry and consideration of this Amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is

U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 10/720,483  
AMENDMENT

**PATENT**

authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1258 in the amount  
of any such required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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